

Ruth 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

Analysis

Boaz's arrival demonstrates godly leadership. His greeting—'**The LORD be with you**' (YHWH immakhem)—invokes Yahweh's blessing on workers, showing faith permeated even agricultural labor. Workers respond '**The LORD bless thee**', reciprocating blessing. This exchange reveals covenant community where master and servants mutually invoke God's favor, transcending mere economic relationships. Boaz models employer-employee relations characterized by mutual respect, spiritual concern, and recognition that all blessings flow from God. His piety contrasts with the judges period's apostasy, showing faithful remnants persisted.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern agriculture typically involved oppressive labor conditions. Boaz's greeting demonstrates covenant ethics transforming labor relations. Workplace invocations of Yahweh's name appear in Psalm 129:8 and reflect faithful Israelite practices. Ruth's narrative unfolds during barley harvest (April-May), when landowners needed maximum labor. Boaz combined efficiency with covenant faithfulness, treating workers as covenant partners rather than mere tools.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How can Christians model Boaz's pattern of invoking God's blessing in workplace relationships?
2. What does this teach about integrating faith into all areas of life?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה	בַּעַז	מִבֵּית	לְחָם	וַיֹּאמְרוּ		
H2009	And behold Boaz	came	from Bethlehem	and said		
	H1162	H935	H1035	H559		
לְקוֹצְרֵי	יְהוָה:	עִמָּךְ	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	לֵאמֹר	יְבָרֶכְךָ	יְהוָה:
unto the reapers	The LORD	H5973	and said	H0	bless	The LORD
H7114	H3068		H559		H1288	H3068

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (References Lord): Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Judges 6:12 (References Lord): And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

Luke 1:28 (Blessing): And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Psalms 118:26 (Blessing): Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Ruth 4:11 (References Lord): And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine

house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem:

2 Timothy 4:22 (References Lord): The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Joshua 24:15 (References Lord): And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Genesis 18:19 (References Lord): For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.